

On the Green—A publication for Gallaudet faculty, teachers, and staff Gallaudet University • 800 Florida Avenue NE, Washington, DC 20002-3695

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'Let nothing stand in the way of your dreams,' former FCC Chair Kennard advises graduates

The air of joyfulness that accompanies Gallaudet commencements was tempered for the 132nd graduating class, whose memories were still fresh with the deaths of freshmen Eric Plunkett and Ben Varner. But, as Gallaudet President I. King Jordan reminded the Class of 2001 at the May 11 commencement exercises, despite the difficult year, "Gallaudet remains strong" and that he has "never been more proud of Gallaudet than today."



Graduate student speaker Marilyn Fernandez gives a cheer at the end of her speech.

Commencement speaker William Kennard, former chair of the Federal Communications Commission, reinforced Dr. Jordan's words, saying, "...your country is proud of the way Gallaudet handled the terrible tragedies that took place here. ... It is a testament to the enduring strength that has characterized this university and its graduates for the past 137 years." He quoted Rep. Major Owens (D-N.Y.), who once called Gallaudet the "Home of the Brave." Kennard added, "I agree with him."

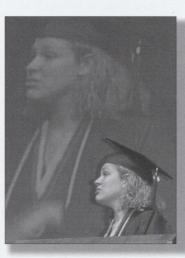
Indeed, as bittersweet as commencement 2001 was for the University, the indomitable Gallaudet spirit could not be subdued. The hope and aspirations for a bright future radiated from the faces of the 298 students who crossed the Field House stage to receive their diplomas. This year, the University conferred 171 bachelor's degrees, 113 master's degrees, eight doctoral degrees, and six specialist degrees. For these new graduates, it was "their day," Dr. Jordan reminded them, and added that they "should savor every minute of it."

"The knowledge I have acquired here is deeper than anyone can ever imagine," said Marilyn Fernandez, student speaker for the graduate class. Fernandez, who is planning a

career as a rehabilitation counselor for deaf-blind people, said, "You will never go to another university any place in the world and find the strong connections and unity you have here." She extended appreciation to the people who have impacted her life, and gave special thanks to Art Roehrig, human development counselor in the Office of Students with Disabilities, who she called her mentor, teacher, guide, and best friend. She called Roehrig "the picture of what I will strive for my deaf-blind consumers to reach."

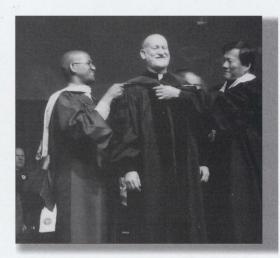
Michelle Smith, who represented the undergraduate class, asked her classmates to recall the challenges that their class was given when they were incoming freshmen four years ago. All new Gallaudet freshmen are challenged to become members of Gallaudet's academic community, apply themselves to their studies, and celebrate diversity. "Today, we are living proof that we ... have met those challenges. We have become members of the Gallaudet University Community," said Smith. What's more, she added, life at Gallaudet has caused great personal growth. "I know I am not the same person I was four years ago, and I imagine many of you aren't as well. Our lives have been enriched from the experience of undergraduate life..."

Kennard told the graduating class that the world is more accessible to them as deaf and hard of hearing individuals than it was for previous generations. In fact, he joked, "I suspect that there are more pagers per square foot here at Gallaudet than anywhere else in the world." But there are still steps to be made. He challenged the Class of 2001 to continue the fight for communication accessibility, particularly by seeing to it that all wireless phones are made accessible to all



"Our lives have been enriched from the experience of undergraduate life," said Michelle Smith, undergraduate student speaker

TTYs, and ensuring that the new technology of speech recognition software "does not leave the deaf community trapped with yesterday's technology," said Kennard. "Make no mistake about it, access to the virtual world is increasingly defining the potential of continued on page 2



Father Cyril Bernhard Axelrod (center), who received an honorary doctorate degree, is hooded by Lindsay Dunn, special assistant to the president, and John Yeh, member of the Board of Trustees.

Bravin retires from Board of Trustees; dorms renamed

Akey chapter in Gallaudet's history closed May 11 when
Philip Bravin, a 20-year veteran of
the University's Board of
Trustees, stepped down from the
board.

The appointment of Bravin as the first deaf chair of the Board of Trustees in 1988 was perhaps the most momentous outcome of the Deaf President Now movement next to I. King Jordan being named the first deaf president. In fact, both of these watershed events took place simultaneously, prompting President Jordan to say after Bravin's retirement was announced, "We grew up together. It would have been very difficult to serve without him."

Bravin served as chair until 1994, when he stepped down from the post and became chair of the board's Financial Affairs committee. His successor, Dr. Glenn Anderson, praised Bravin for his leadership skills, saying, "There's no place to go to learn how to be chair of the board. I needed some help, and I thank God for you, Phil, my mentor and teacher." The board then approved a resolution to Bravin commending him for being "a strong and sensitive advocate of the deaf community and Gallaudet students" and expressing gratitude for "his unparalleled contributions and leadership." The resolution also recognized Bravin's efforts on the Financial Affairs Committee toward helping the University maintain a sound financial base, and his success in keeping Gallaudet on the forefront with technology.

Bravin responded, "It's been a wonderful opportunity to be of service and give back to

Gallaudet because Gallaudet gave so much to me 30 years ago. I will miss all of you."

In another action, the Board of Trustees voted to change the names of Cogswell Hall and Krug Hall dormitories to the Ballard Residential Complex, named for Melville Ballard, Gallaudet's first graduating student (1866). Anderson said the new name is being introduced as a way to help the University get past the tragedies of the past year. The dorms, both built in 1965, were named for Walter Krug, an alumnus, professor, and dean of men who taught at Gallaudet from 1927 until his death in 1962, and Alice Cogswell, Rev. Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet's young student. The University will find a way to keep the Krug and Cogswell names due to their significance to the history of residential life at Gallaudet. The rooms that victims Eric Plunkett and Ben Varner lived in will be converted to public uses—Plunkett's as a place for students to watch movies, and Varner's as a computer lab.

The board approved a general pay increase of up to three percent, depending on the availability of funding, for 2002, and approved a seven percent tuition increase and a three percent room and board increase for 2003. It passed a \$136,000,000 operating budget for 2002, which includes \$89.4 million in anticipated federal funding. The board also learned that the team of evaluators from the Commission on Higher Education, Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, was on campus April 8-11 to review the

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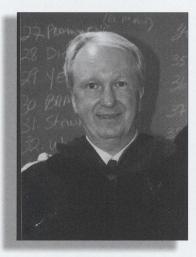
Former Federal Communications Commission chairman William E. Kennard gives the commencement address while Jo Linda Greenfield interprets his remarks.

Graduation

continued from page 1

every American, especially people with disabilities," he said. During Kennard's tenure at the FCC, he worked to see that potential fulfilled for the 28 million Americans that are deaf and hard of hearing, ensuring basic rights to closed captioning and decoders for televisions, telecommunications relay services, and other measures. He helped create the FCC's first office of disability rights, as well as the FCC's first enforcement bureau to ensure that the rules for equal access were enforced. Kennard credited Gallaudet for its role in seeing that this accessibility was achieved. He thanked several members of the Gallaudet community-Dr. Judith Harkins, Pam Holmes, Nancy Bloch, Claude Stout, Philip Bravin, Andy Lange, Judy Viera, Al Sonnenstrahl, Karen Peltz-Strauss, and President Jordanfor their contributions. "...I thank Gallaudet, which, by pioneering disability rights, made it possible for me to stand on all of your shoulders and make my contribution."

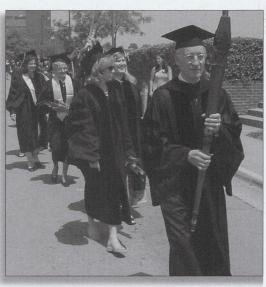
Kennard's most inspiring message to the Class of 2001 was his reflection on just how valuable a college degree is, and what it represents. Reflecting back on his own graduation 20 years ago, he had no idea at the time that "it was not what I learned but how I learned ... your education has given you the tools for lifetime learning." He also came to realize the value of the friendships he formed. "When faced with chal-



Dr. H. Neil Reynolds,who is retiring as professor and chair of the Psychology Department, was named Professor Emeritus.

lenges in the years to come, your greatest allies will be the friends you've made in your years here at Gallaudet."

He also learned that to get what you want means not being afraid to fight to break the status quo. He talked about his grandfather, a brilliant man who was completely self-taught, yet as an African American, he had a job as a railroad porter with no chance for advancement. To escape the segregated South, he moved his family to California, but even there, black and white children went to different schools. Because the family lived in the



Dr. Edward Beasley, a professor in the Mathematics and Computer Science Department, leads the procession, carrying the Mace. He is followed closely by the Ph.D. graduates.

neighborhood where the white school was located, Kennard's grandfather sent his son to the white school. He was repeatedly turned away, but the boy's father kept sending him back, saying "You have every right to go there." Finally, the principal relented and allowed him to stay. The lesson, said Kennard, is "when the doors of opportunity are closed, you knock. And when nobody answers, you keep knocking, and if nobody answers that door of opportunity, then you break that door down and walk on through." Therefore, Kennard told the graduates, "you let nothing stand in the way of your dreams. ... It is the single most important lesson that you learned here at Gallaudet." Kennard spoke of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision of a "beloved community" where all Americans are equal. He issued a challenge to the graduates to

make that dream a reality by creating a world with no barriers—physical, mental, or virtual. He described this new world as "A beloved community not for the disability community, but for the American community, for everyone."

Following Kennard's address, the University presented honorary doctor of laws degrees to him and to Father Cyril Bernhard Axelrod. Kennard's citation praised him for the FCC's "unprecedented improvements to rules and standards on communication access" under his tenure. Kennard was also praised for reminding industry leaders "of their obligation to make their products accessible," and for his efforts toward the creation of the Disability Rights Office within the Consumer Information Bureau and the Consumer/Disability Advisory Committee, which "offer hope that the FCC will continue to safeguard accessibility in a time of rapid technological change."

In 1970, Father Axelrod became the first man born deaf and legally blind to be ordained a Catholic priest. His citation stated that Gallaudet is honoring Father Axelrod with the degree "for his powerful and persistent efforts to improve the lives of deaf people.

two decades in his native South Africa, Father Axelrod helped expand job opportunities and educational programs for deaf people, as well as community support programs. In 1988, he was assigned to Macau, where he was instrumental in founding educational and social service centers to serve Chinese deaf people, and helped found the Macau Deaf Association.

..." Working for

Father Axelrod's efforts have earned him the Gallaudet University Alumni Association's Edward Miner Gallaudet Award, and the First Class International Social Merit Award at the 13th World Federation of the Deaf Congress. He now lives in England, where he continues to teach and guide other deaf-blind people in living productively.



Howard University Dean Taylor encourages graduate students to dream big and keep learning

At the May 10 hooding ceremony for graduate students, Dr. Orlando Taylor, dean of the graduate school at Howard University, implored graduates to keep learning, keep dreaming, and to give back to their alma mater.

"I encourage each of you graduates to keep dreaming to make the world better, to make yours and our community a better place," said Taylor. " Keep your dreams going. Keep your dreams high. Use the knowledge that this great university has given you." He then implored the graduates to "reach back and help encourage others to do what you did."

The presentation of graduate awards followed Taylor's address. The awards and their recipients were:

- G. Arlene Gavin Award to a student who has exhibited outstanding professional growth and personal commitment to the social work profession—Barry Elliott and Davina Snow
- Catherine H. Moses Award for a student who has shown leadership and outstanding potential for significant contributions to social work practice—Terry Tauger
- Elizabeth Peet Award for an outstanding student in school psychology—Deborah Witsken
- Larry G. Stewart Award for an outstanding student in clinical psychology—Robert Baldwin
- Cassandra C. Ketterer Award for an outstanding counseling student who has demonstrated high aptitude for and commitment to counseling—Laurie Vassallo and Kari Knutson
- Founder's Award acknowledging a practicing counselor who has contributed to the enhancement of counseling services to persons who are deaf or hard of hearing—Susan Starnes
- Most Improved Interpretation Student—Ruth Jackson
- Outstanding Linguistics
 Award—Randall Hogue and Erin Wilkinson
- Ron Coffey Award to two outstanding interpretation students— Nancy Yesbeck and Sharin Nakayama
- Daniel T. Cloud Award for two outstanding education students— Jenny Lam and Tracy Tracy
- Marjorie Stull Memorial Scholarship Award for exceptional ability and aptitude in teaching students who are deaf on the basis of first-year graduate student performance—Gina Geraci
- Helen Fay Award for the student most likely to make an outstanding contribution in the field

Ying Li, from China, and Adrienne Rubenstein, from Maryland, pose next to a small replica of the Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet and Alice Cogswell statue before the ceremony begins. of teaching deaf or hard of hearing children—Kathleen Bouleware

- Philip J. Schmitt Award for the student who has demonstrated outstanding academic performance in the field of deaf education—Harry Wood
- Seltzer League Award for a graduating student who has demonstrated excellence in academic and clinical areas of the speech-language pathology program and is expected to broaden the understanding of hearing and hearing loss—Kimberly
- Oglethorpe and Katherine Tilley
 Writing Research Award—
- Nancy McIntosh

 Walter G. Ross Award to a graduate student who has demonstrated unusual capability and interest in writing and editing materials concerning deafness-related research—Nan Truitt
- Graduate Student
 Achievement Award—Charles
 McKellar and Terry Tauger
- Jennie and Geri Werdig Award for an outstanding married female graduate student— Monica Robb
- Outstanding External
 Collaboration Award for an
 organization which has provided
 exemplary support to Gallaudet
 University's Graduate School over
 a substantial period of time—
 Deaf-Reach
- Outstanding Graduate Faculty Award—Dr. Spencer Gibbins and Dr. David Martin
- Special Award—Charles
 McKellar and Dr. Frank Zieziula



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"We're here to celebrate our strengths and to thank each of you for supporting the University and contributing to its success," President Jordan told the 200 individuals present at the May 9 "Friends of Gallaudet" reception. The annual event, held this year in a tent on the lawn of House One, recognizes Special Friends who donate their time or financial support to the University during the year. Dr. Jordan said he was particularly proud that their contributions have helped the campus continue its lead in visual technology, making it possible for two-thirds of Gallaudet students to take classes that are Web enhanced. He added that he was also proud that members of the business community—many of whom were present that night—have formed partnerships with the University, contributing to the fact that 70 percent of its students participate in career internships. He also praised the group for its support of the Unite for Gallaudet Capital Campaign, which has raised millions of dollars to support University priorities. Graduating senior Matthew Myrick (RIGHT), a biology major, told the group that the scholarships he has received have made his Gallaudet education possible. "Without your support, I wouldn't be here this evening," he said. "I know for certain that without you Gallaudet couldn't offer the same quality of education to so many of its students." (LEFT) Among the guests at the Friends Reception were Kathleen Cornils, mother of Eric Plunkett, and her husband, Chris Cornils, who are shown being introduced to Board of Trustees Chair Glenn Anderson by President Jordan. (Also pictured is interpreter Kevin Campbell.)

'Flat Stanley' comes to campus

Gallaudet welcomed hundreds of visitors to the campus this spring, but Stanley was a little unusual. For one thing, the weary traveler was two dimensional—but who wouldn't be after being smashed by a bulletin board.

Stanley Lambchop is the hero of the children's book *Flat Stanley*, written by Jeff Brown. In the story, Stanley, despite having been accidentally flattened by the bulletin board, travels around the world and has adventures. His preferred method of travel is the mailbox, which his physical state allows him easy access.

Brown wrote the tale in 1964, and in 1995 an elementary school teacher in Canada started the "The Flat Stanley Project," which has enabled teachers to teach geography in an interactive way. The kids create their own Stanley paper doll and send him in an envelope to people and places that they want to know more about. The children ask the recipi-

ents to send Stanley back with a short letter about the adventures that he had on his trip. For example, Stanley has been on the Rosie O'Donnell show, met President Bill Clinton, and traveled on the space shuttle Discovery, where he logged 217 orbits of the Earth and traveled 4.6 million miles.

J.P. Wilson, a third-grader from Becker Elementary School, in Becker, Minn., sent Flat Stanley to Gallaudet in April. After enjoying a busy three-week stay on campus, Stanley was sent back to Wilson with a letter, a mini Gallaudet banner, and a picture of Stanley with President Jordan. While at the Visitors Center, Stanley met a group of about 25 deaf high school students from the Institut de Jeunes Sourds in Bourg-en-Bresse, France. He also met visitors from Kazakhstan, Holland, China, Japan, Russia. Brazil, Yemen, and Portugal.



Flat Stanley maintained a hectic pace at Gallaudet. His many activities included touring the campus, visiting downtown D.C., viewing the cherry blossoms, and meeting President Jordan.



For Sale By Owner: Home in Hyattsville, Md., 10 min. to Gallaudet, 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, fenced yard, CAC, new kitchen, bath, and carpet, \$103k with closing help. E-mail sarah.doleac@gallaudet.edu

THAOS LAND TISE

Hi Aunt Sophie,

It seems that almost every day outside the Conference Center there is a group of people waiting for the Gallaudet shuttle bus. Normally, this is good news because we are providing great services. However, what some visitors don't know is that the bus does not run 24 hours. In the morning, the last bus leaves campus at 9:17, then there isn't another one until 11:39 a.m. Also, there is no evening service between 5:54 and 7:09 p.m.

Shouldn't you use some of your extreme wealth to build a sign that lists the shuttle hours, or a place to put the schedules?

Concerned About Our Visitors

Dear CAOV,

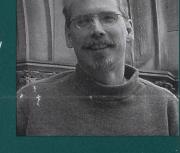
Perhaps you would like your dear sainted Aunty to erect a booth at the bus stop and personally distribute shuttle schedules! I hardly think so.

Rather, it seems that our visitors, all of whom are above average, should know enough to ascertain the times of operation of the shuttle. Schedules are readily available in the GUKCC and Visitors Center, both of which are but a skip and a jump from the bus stop.

Let us refrain from putting up too many signs on our lovely campus. They should be kept to a minimum, and even when absolutely necessary, tastefully fashioned and carefully worded. (Aunty is not fond the new sign that recently sprouted at the foot of House One's drive, for example.)

However, having said this, I shall bring your suggestion to our shuttle authorities for their review, along with my warning regarding the proliferation of superfluous signage.

On May 14, Laurent Clerc Holt, the great, great, great, great, great-grandson of Laurent Clerc, America's first deaf teacher of the deaf, visited Gallaudet to discuss lending some of his ancestor's artifacts to the University for display. Holt, from Brattleboro, Vt., visited the Archives in the University Library, read letters written by Clerc, held his cane, and was able to see a genealogical chart of Clerc's descendants that is maintained—along with charts for the Gallaudet and Kendall families—by the Archives Department.



This was Holt's second visit to Gallaudet; his first was 27 years ago at the dedication of Clerc Hall on April 6, 1974.

HOTES FROM PERSONNEL

Service awards for April

Ten years:

Denise West, administrative secretary I, Foreign Languages and Literatures; Dennis Berrigan, coordinator of ASL Training and Evaluation, Clerc Center; Jean Gordon, sign language assessor/diagnostician, Communication Center

Twenty years:

Vivian Stevens, administrative secretary II, President's Office; Jane Rutherford, reference and instruction librarian, Library

Twenty-five years:

Howard Kang, first class engineer, Utilities Services; Carl Prince, manager, Custodial Services.

Thirty years:

Barbara McNamara, administrative assistant, Department of Business (Note: McNamara was listed incorrectly as a retiree in last month's "Notes from Personnel.")

New employees hired in April: Daniel Brubaker, coordinator, Judicial Affairs; Michelle Chisolm, administrative secretary II, Clerc Center; Autureo Crockett, acting residential night assistant, Clerc Center; Demetrius Dew, staff residential assistant, Campus Life; Walter Gendron, staff residential assistant, Campus Life; April Hornsby, residential night assistant, Clerc Center; LaKeisha Johnson, staff residential assistant, Campus Life; Astrid Jones, staff residential assistant, Campus Life; Julie Reese-Goldstein, human resource information service technician, Human Resources; Danielle Thompson, staff residential assistant, Campus Life

Job changes in April:
Rochelle Harrison, administrative secretary I, Student Affairs;
Sanremi LaRue-Atuonah, coordinator, recruitment and retention, Family Education, Clerc Center; Karen Lynch, administrative secretary I, Student Center; Victoria Sealock, executive secretary, Custodial Services; Monica Shimmin, database management and reporting specialist, Clerc Center

AWONC ONTSELVES

King Lear, the Shakespeare Theatre's "Free For All" production at Carter Barron Amphitheatre in Washington, D.C., June 8 and June 16, stars deaf actress Monique Holt, a graduate of MSSD's former Performing Arts Program, in the role of Cordelia, Lear's deaf daughter. Krista Walker, coordinator in Conference Training and Program Support, will be an interpreter for the production. For tickets, call (202) 638-3863 (TTY), or (202) 547-1122 (Voice), or go to the website: www.shakespearetheatre.org



Every two years, the Development Office recognizes funds that have recently become endowed, named in honor of an individual. Family members, friends, and administrators of the funds are invited to the ceremony. This year's ceremony, which was held May 9 in Chapel Hall, recognized 19 funds. Family members and friends representing six of the 19 funds were (from left): Front Row—Chris and Kathleen Cornils (Eric Plunkett Fund); Harvey and Astrid Goodstein and Frank Amann (Frank B. and Alice C. Amann Fund); Frank Sullivan (Waldo T. Cordano Fund); President Jordan; Second Row—James Stokoe (William C. Stokoe, Jr. Fund); Jack and Rosalyn Gannon (Marie S. Goetter Fund); and Jack Patermaster, Sandra Double, and Sharon Patermaster (Harley Drake Fund).

Board of Trustees

continued from page 1

University's programs as part of its 10-year reaccreditation process, and that Dr. Earl Richardson, chair of the evaluation team, spoke positively of the Univertisty's programs and services. The University will be officially notified of its reaccredidation status in July. It was also reported that six hearing undergraduate students (HUGs), all transfer students, have been admitted to the pilot program for the fall semester.

In his report for the Financial Affairs Committee, Bravin said that Gallaudet's endowment has done well despite the volatility of the stock market. He said that while many college endowments dropped significantly during Wall Street's rocky ride the past year, Gallaudet held its own. He said that, to date, the Office of Development has raised \$7 million this year toward its goal of \$8.7 million.

The board also recognized Bill Graham, a member of the Financial Affairs and Audit committees, for his 10 years of service on the board.

teams for international sign and interpreting with individuals who are deaf-blind, and ASL/English interpreters.

The interpreting needs will go well beyond the formal conference and workshop. Volunteers, interpreting students, pro bono donors, and those interested in part-time positions are encouraged to apply. Interpreters' responsibilities may also include media events, escort interpreting, on-call emergency needs, youth programs, hotel registration, and theatrical technical crew.

Interested individuals must fill out the online application form and send in a current resume, proof of certification, letters of recommendation, and a videotape of their work. For more information, go to: www.deafway.org.





Julianne Verrier (right), public relations director for Long & Foster Real Estate, Inc., presents an \$8,500 check to Marcia Griffin, HomeFree USA president, to support a campaign to make the dream of homeownership a reality for thousands of deaf and hard of hearing residents of the Washington. D.C., area. The check presentation took part before a standing-room-only ceremony in 'Ole Jim' on April 25 to launch the campaign to simplify the home buying process. To accomplish this, HomeFree USA, Long & Foster, Chevy Chase Bank, Freddie Mac, and the D.C. Department of Housing and

Community Development are sponsoring the program that will extend personal counseling, budgeting advice, real estate education, and post-purchase guidance to aspiring deaf and hard of hearing homeowners. For more information about the program, call (202) 526-2000 (Voice) or (202) 526-5150 (TTY).



Heavy equipment breaks up concrete at the construction site for the future Student Academic Center.

AJTAOQJA DNIVOA

DWII Fact

The Deaf Way II Interpreting

Committee is seeking interpreters

related events, such as the Artists

Deaf Way II. There are both paid

and volunteer positions available.

international sign. In order to build

the strongest possible interpreting

team, the committee is actively

seeking a team of interpreters

is seeking deaf and hearing

that is diverse ethnically and cul-

turally. Therefore, the committee

The official languages of Deaf

Way II are ASL, English, and

Conference, Arts Festival, and

Symposium the week prior to

to work the Deaf Way II

Congratulations on receiving your Gallaudet diploma! What are your plans for the next few months, both personally and career-wise?



Terry Tauger, Wisconsin: *I plan to stay in Washington, D.C., and look for work and housing.*Terry Tauger (center) and his family.



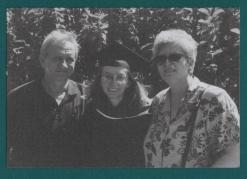
Annette McKenzie Anderson, Maryland: Relax, travel, 'exhale,' and contemplate a change in career in the field of special education administration, policymaking, and public relations. I plan to enjoy my family and friends who have supported me throughout this Ph.D. experience.

Annette McKenzie Anderson (first row, third from left) and many of her family and friends.



Marilyn Fernandez, North Carolina: I will join the Division of Services for the Blind in North Carolina as a rehabilitation counselor for deaf-blind people.

Marilyn Fernandez (third from right) and her family.



Alma Delic, Illinios: I am going to look for a job as a teacher in Chicago. I hope my future students will become well-educated like myself.
Pictured are: Alma Delic (center), and her father and mother, Semsudin and Rasema Delic.

(LEAC (ENTER HAPPENINGS

Gallaudet National Essay Contest winners reveal turning points in their lives

By Susan M. Flanigan

or Jessica Bonagofsky of East Graham, Wash., the turning point in her life came when she worked as summer camp counselor for a mentally handicapped girl. In her first prize-winning entry to the Gallaudet National Essay Contest for deaf and hard of hearing students, entitled, "Krista," Bonagofsky wrote, "She (Krista) taught me how to be more patient, to be grateful for what I have, and how to be a better person. I always felt like I had a problem, but when I met Krista I realized that my hearing disability is nothing compared to what others face every day."

Each year, Gallaudet, through its office of Enrollment Services and the Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center, sponsors the essay contest for deaf and hard of hearing teenagers. This year's contest theme, "A Life Turning Point," attracted 110 entries. The winning essays will be published in the May/June issue of World Around You magazine and online at the World Around You Web site: http://clercenter.gallaudet.edu/WorldAroundYou/.

This year's top contributors covered a variety of topics, for example: a grandfather who taught a whole new way to approach learning; defying physical disabilities to become an athlete; facing racism; discovering a cultural identity as a result of a trip to Vietnam; learning how to get along with co-workers; and learning to speak out at a National Young Leaders

Conference.

This year's prize winners are: first place, \$1,000 scholarship, Jessica Bonagofsky from Bethel High School, Spanaway, Wash.; second place, \$500 scholarship, Jeffrey Mansfield from The Learning Center for Deaf Children, Framingham, Mass., for his essay "A Basement of Knowledge"; third place, \$300 scholarship, Marcie Johnson from Chico Senior High School, Chico, Calif., for her essay, "My Disability Cannot Stop My Feet." Two honorable mentions of \$100 scholarships are awarded, one to Sadie Redbear from South Dakota School for the Deaf in Sioux Falls, for "My Life Turning Point," and the other to Chris W. Miller from Louisville Male High School in Louisville, Ky., for "Every Day of My Life."

Commendable status was given to Ann Pham from Loveland High School in Loveland, Colo., for "The Experience of a Life Time"; Ann Nguyen Ngo from North High School in Torrance, Calif., for "My Turning Point": Johannah Bendall from Homestead High School in Ft. Wayne, Ind., for "Grandma's Secret"; Kelly Burdick from Oswego High School in Oswego, N.Y., for "About-Face"; and Andrew M. Paluch from Northeast Catholic High School in Philadelphia, Pa., for "The Right Direction."

Gallaudet University Press and Butte Publishing, Inc., donated books related to deaf culture to give to the winning students and their sponsoring teachers.